



## Conservation Districts of Iowa

May 2014 Report to SSCC

### 2014 Iowa Envirothon

#### \* Results

Overall Top Score	Marshalltown Whales 1 with 378
Overall Runner Up	Riceville FFA 1 with 353.75
Soils 1st Place	Marshalltown Whales 2 with 69
Aquatics 1st Place	Iowa City Benthos with 72
Wildlife 1st Place	Waverly-Shell Rock FFA with 58
Forestry/Prairies 1st Place	Glenwood 2 with 63
Oral Presentation 1st Place	Marshalltown Whales 1 with 139
FFA Top Score	Riceville FFA 1 with 353.75
FFA Runner Up	Muscatine FFA 1 with 352
FFA Second Runner Up	Alburnett FFA 1 with 324.25

\* Marshalltown Whales 1 will be sent to the **2014 Stewardship Challenge at Loyola University Chicago, Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** with 9 other teams from the Midwest. The National Envirothon will begin again in **2015 in Missouri** and in **2016 will be held in Ontario, Canada.**

**\*2015 is the Iowa Envirothon's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** We are developing a list of **20 goals for 20 years** to improve the event. Goals will include acknowledging founding individuals, strengthening existing and forming new partnerships (for example, we have a meeting with the FFA in May), and increasing funding for the event in order to implement new elements to the event.

#### Resolutions

\* 2014 CDI resolutions documents, pre-conference voting materials, five proposed resolutions, recommended changes to the CDI Bylaws and CDI's complete bylaws with recommended changes in red sent to Districts on April 25, 2014.

\* CDI makes flood mitigation an SWCD long term goal with equal priority to water quality improvement and soil conservation. CDI supports legislation to provide funding and technical

assistant through SWCDs for the express purpose of reducing flooding and the resulting damage to public and private infrastructure. **FAYETTE CO. SWCD**

\*Therefore it be resolved that CDI recommends Division of Soil Conservation deny cost share to farmers who fall till soybean stubble. **CLAY CO. SWCD**

\*Therefore it be resolved CDI recommends Division of Soil Conservation require the land protected by the terrace be no-tilled to receive state cost share. **CLAY CO. SWCD**

\* Be it resolved that we the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) support the addition by IDALS-DSC of a paragraph to its administrative rules 10.60(2) which states: "f. Any conservation cover that has silage, forage, or bedding value, may be harvested or grazed as long as erosion control is preserved and there is no adverse effect to the newly constructed conservation practice." **SIOUX CO. SWCD**

\* WHEREAS, CDI supports the revision of the Iowa State Code to allow Assistant Commissioners voting rights at monthly Commissioner Meetings if Commissioners have the need and want to approve them to do so. CDI asks the State Soil Conservation Committee to work with IDALS-DSC to change the Iowa State Code to allow unelected Assistant Commissioners to fill a quorum and to vote when necessary at county level SWCD discretion. **LUCAS CO. SWCD**

\* The CDI Policy Committee recommends the following changes and additions to the CDI Policy and Procedures:

1. The CDI Board recommends the following Bylaw change to ARTICLE VI Officers, Section 6.4 Conditions of terms for officers: Removal of the statement "and may, but need not be a member of the board of directors, nor be an active Soil and Water Conservation District commissioner."

**Explanation:** The CDI Board feels it is important for the secretary and treasurer of CDI to be a member of the board and an active Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner.

2. The CDI Board recommends the following Bylaw change to ARTICLE VI Officers, Section 6.6 Compensation: Add alternate directors as being eligible to have travel and other expenses paid to them.

**Explanation:** The CDI Board feels that a CDI Alternate Director's individual SWCD should not be burdened with the cost of expenses and that the participation of alternate directors at CDI Board Meetings is imperative on account they must make decisions related to the organization when the CDI Director is not available or in attendance.

3. The CDI Board recommends the following Bylaw change to ARTICLE IX Finance, Section 9.3 Budget: Add "to the association board" at the end of the paragraph.

**Explanation:** The CDI Board feels it is important to clarify that it is the responsibility of the CDI Board to review and approve an organizational annual budget and supplements to that budget throughout the year.

4. The CDI Board recommends the following Bylaw change to ARTICLE XI Affiliated Organizations, Section 11.1 The Auxiliary: Replace "is hereby" with "can be" in the first sentence.

**Explanation:** The CDI Board feels it is best to maintain the option of having an active Auxiliary but to not make it a requirement.

5. The CDI Board recommends the following Bylaw change to ARTICLE XI Affiliated Organizations, Section 11.2 The Past Presidents' Council: Replace "is hereby" with "can be" in the first sentence.

**Explanation:** The CDI Board feels it is best to maintain the option of having an active Past Presidents Council but to not make it a requirement.

6. The CDI Board recommends the following addition to the Bylaws as ARTICLE XIII Policy Review: *Annually, the CDI Board will review policy statements five years and older. The CDI Board will make recommendations to update the language and renew the policy statements or to archive policy statements that have already been accomplished or are no longer relevant. These recommendations will be sent to districts with preconference resolution voting, a minimum of 90 days prior to the CDI Business Meeting. Annually, at the CDI Business Meeting the membership will vote to adopt the recommendations to the policy statements made by the CDI Board.*

**Explanation:** The CDI Board feels there is no process in place to review or make recommendations to the membership on policy statements which are past resolutions approved by the membership. This addition to the Bylaws would put in place a process for the CDI Board to review and make recommendations to the membership regarding policy statements. This addition also puts into place a process that ensures the membership receives these recommendations, has adequate time to review them and has an opportunity to discuss and vote on them. **(CDI)**

## **New and potential projects**

\*Still working with Jerry Hatfield to gather yield and organic matter data from long term **no-till and strip-till** farmers, next step to use data for proposal to Buffet Foundation.

\*Second meeting as co-chair of State Technical Committee on **Locally Led Conservation** will be May 5th, have not heard back from pre-proposal submitted to Walton Foundation, all members of committee will have completed a S.W.O.T. (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis and matrix on the Locally Led Conservation Process and we will have survey results from the Districts on the last time they conducted a locally led conservation meeting and their evaluation on the current process in place for passing on the District and local stakeholder priorities to state leadership by next meeting.

\*CDI will begin planning soon with the SWCS on a **Cover Crop Conference** in December 2014.

**\*New\*** Members of the Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) were charged with pondering **"What makes a good partners to the Water Quality Initiative/ Nutrient Reduction Strategy"**. A CDI subcommittee is working on creating annual goals for our role as a partner. This will be discussed and adopted at the Summer Meeting. We will share this with others at the next WPAC Meeting. DRAFT document provided.

**\*New\*** CDI is exploring how its past work on a certified conservation farmer program and relationship with the McKnight Foundation might assist NRCS with a pilot for their **Conservation Certification Program**.

### **Upcoming Dates of Importance**

**May 16:** Deadline for SWCDs to submit local poster winners to CDI Regional Directors

**June 15:** Conservation Farmer of the Year and Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards due

**June 16 & 17:** SSSC/CDI Joint and Separate Board Meetings and Summer Tour